All dollar amounts in thousands

Activity: Special Programs

Program Components	2002 Enacted	2003 Estimate	2004 Uncontr/ Related Changes	2004 Program Changes (+/-)	2004 Budget Request	Change From 2003 (+/-)
Emergency/Unscheduled; Seismic Safety	3,500	3,500	0	+2,000	5,500	+2,000
Housing Repair and Replacement Program	12,500	10,500	0	-2,500	8,000	-2,500
Dam Safety Program	2,700	2,700	0	0	2,700	0
Equipment Replacement Program	17,960	31,960	0	+6,500	38,460	+6,500
Total Requirements	**36,660**	**48,660**	**0**	**+6,000**	**54,660**	**+6,000**

Authorization

16 U.S.C. 1	The National Park Service Organic Act
Public Law 101-614	The Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977
Public Law 104-333, Section 814	The National Park Service Housing Improvement
Public Law 104-303, Section 215	The National Dam Safety Program Act of 1996

Activity Overview

Activities provide for the performance of minor unscheduled and emergency construction projects, improvement of public use buildings to withstand seismic disturbances and damage, inspection, repair or deactivation of dams, repair of park employee housing, ensure adequate inventories of automated and motorized equipment, upgrade radio communications equipment and the improvement of information management capabilities.

Emergency and Unscheduled Projects
To perform minor unscheduled and emergency construction projects to protect and preserve park resources, provide for safe and uninterrupted visitor use of facilities, accommodate unanticipated concessioner facility related needs, provide necessary infrastructure for approved concessioner expansion projects, and ensure continuity of support and service operations.

Seismic Safety of National Park System Buildings
Improve the capability of public use buildings to withstand seismic disturbances and resulting damage.

Dam Safety
Inspect and repair dams, or deactivate dams to protect lives and park resources.

Housing Repair and Replacement
Repair some of the more seriously deficient park employee housing units, and replace others where needed.

Replacement of Park Operations Equipment
Ensure adequate inventories of automated and motorized equipment to support park operations and visitor services throughout the National Park System are purchased to replace existing inventories that have met use and age limitations. Ensure that adequate inventories of new equipment are purchased for units recently added to the National Park System so that park operations and resource protection can begin unimpeded.

Conversion to Narrowband Radio System
Upgrade radio communications equipment to ensure rapid response to emergency and life-threatening situations as they arise.

Modernization of Information Resources Equipment
Improve the information management resource capabilities of the Service to ensure timely processing of data and intra-office telecommunications into the 21st century.

Activity: **Special Programs**
Program Component: **Emergency/Unscheduled; Seismic Safety**

FY 2004 Base Program Overview

This program is composed of two major components as described below.

Emergency and Unscheduled Projects: $4.0 million
The FY 2004 proposal continues the $2.0 million funding level to address emergency and unscheduled needs. The National Park System contains over 30,000 structures and thousands of individual utility systems. Through the course of normal operations, these structures and systems can unexpectedly be damaged or fail, and require immediate attention to avoid more costly reconstruction in the future. Such work may require more than one fiscal year for project completion, but generally will not involve extensive planning or formal contract bidding procedures, characteristic of line item construction.

In addition to the continuation of this program, the Service is requesting funds to reimburse the Department of the Treasury's Judgement Fund that was used to pay out two judgement awards in favor of former National Park Service contractors. Under the provisions of 41 USC 601, the Contract Disputes Act, payments are made on behalf of the federal agencies by the Judgement Fund provided that reimbursement is made to the fund in a timely manner. This one-time increase totals $2.0 million for the two awards.

Seismic Safety of National Park System Buildings: $1.5 million
The National Park Service Seismic Safety Program is mandated by Public Law 101-614, Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977, National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 1990, Executive Order 12699, Executive Order 12941, and NPS Directive 93-1. These mandates, along with related technical guidelines produced by the Interagency Committee on Seismic Safety in Construction and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, requires the NPS to adopt minimum standards of seismic safety in existing Federally-owned/leased buildings and to apply appropriate seismic safety standards to new construction. Each agency has a seismic safety coordinator and works with the Department of the Interior Seismic Safety Program and the Department of the Interior Office of Managing Risk and Public Safety to evaluate, prioritize, and rehabilitate their inventory of extremely high risk (EHR) seismically deficient buildings. Information on the NPS seismic safety activities is provided annually to the Department of the Interior and biennially to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for inclusion into the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Report to Congress.

The National Park Service continues to perform seismic studies, investigations, designs, and rehabilitation on public use buildings throughout the National Park System. Each bureau has developed a five-year plan to mitigate their inventory of EHR buildings. Because of the large number of EHR buildings in the NPS inventory (over 400), the NPS mitigation efforts will extend beyond the 5-year plan proposed by the other DOI bureaus. The Service is working with the Department and the NPS regions and parks to prioritize the list of EHR buildings for seismic rehabilitation.

For FY 2004, seismic safety evaluations, pre-design, design, and/or construction work will be performed on the following:

- Yosemite National Park – Seismic rehabilitation of the Wawona Hotel $350,000.
- Yellowstone National Park – Seismic rehabilitation of the Gardiner Transportation Building $400,000.
- Lassen Volcanic National Park – Seismic rehabilitation of 15 buildings at the Drakesbad Guest Ranch $162,000.
- Seismic rehabilitation of Lake Hotel in Yellowstone National Park $325,000.

Remainder of the program ($263,000):

- Detailed seismic investigations will be conducted at the following high seismic zone parks – Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Cabrillo National Monument, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Channel Islands National Park, National Park of American Samoa, Yellowstone National Park and Yosemite National Park.
- Continued follow-up work will be conducted in the south central Alaska parks resulting from the Magnitude 7.9 Earthquake of November 2002.
- Detailed seismic studies and investigations will continue to be conducted in parks located in both high and moderate seismic zone locations.
- The NPS will expand the program to include National Park System areas that have been upgraded to high and moderate seismic hazard zones by the recently released USGS Seismic Hazard Maps. The program will start to collect building inventory information on low seismic zone parks located adjacent to high and moderate zone boundaries.

Activity: **Special Programs**
Program Component: **Housing Repair and Replacement Program**

FY 2004 Base Program Overview

Housing Repair and Replacement Program: $8.0 million

In December 1996, the Park Service began a comprehensive review of the NPS housing program. The Service completed a comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment by an independent contractor in 1998. In 2002, the NPS obtained consultant services to explore the full range of feasible housing options, including public/private partnerships at four parks: Grand Canyon NP, Grand Teton NP, Yosemite NP and Big Bend NP. Preliminary findings are being reviewed at this time to determine if public/private partnerships are feasible and cost-effective. The Service recognizes that the full cost of providing housing is a prerequisite for any cost comparison of feasible options and will compare these costs to the funding available from rent receipts, construction appropriations, and park base funding and to the costs involving the private sector. At the direction of the Department and OMB, and based on the findings of the consultant, the NPS will initiate and complete a housing report that articulates a strategy and timeframe to (1) measure the full costs of providing employee housing, (2) compare those costs with leasing or other alternatives, and (3) work with the private sector in developing alternatives to government-owned housing. Because this report is not complete and a strategy for developing alternatives to government-owned housing is not yet in place, funding for this program is reduced by $2.5 million in FY 2004.

In FY 2002, the Park Service funded 90 rehabilitation projects at 18 park areas; 18 trailer replacement projects at 5 park areas; and 4 housing removal projects at 2 park areas using housing repair and replacement funding.

In FY 2003, the Park Service continued to address the requirements of section 814 of Public Law 104-333, National Park Service Housing Improvement. Funding criteria and guidelines were used to prioritize all projects to ensure that the Service is directing available funding to the greatest need for repair, rehabilitation, replacement or construction. Rehabilitation projects focused on those units in less than good condition, with priority given to units in poor condition to improve their condition to maintainable standards. The NPS continued condition assessments of existing units to determine repair and maintenance deficiencies and associated costs.

The ongoing operational effort to evaluate the condition of housing stock will continue in FY 2004 as a part of the Service's larger efforts to improve asset management. Full life-cycle costs will become more apparent as the Service moves toward condition assessments of all facilities, including the housing inventory, and the parks implement the Facility Management Software System. The FY 2004 request for the rehabilitation of existing housing structures and trailer replacement is part of the Administration's plan to reduce the NPS infrastructure backlog needs. The ongoing rehabilitation and trailer replacement work is necessary while the Service explores alternatives to constructing Government-owned housing onsite, consistent with the 1996 Omnibus Parks Act authorities.

Park housing is an essential management tool used to protect park resources, property, visitors, and to meet the mission of the park effectively and efficiently. Therefore, the housing program for the NPS involves a long-term commitment; this is not a program of "quick fixes." Condition assessments, trailer replacement, housing rehabilitation and removal of excess housing must continue. Condition assessments of existing units to determine repair and maintenance deficiencies and associated costs will continue. Park managers will use data received from these inspections to develop cost-benefit analyses to determine fiscally responsible housing decisions.

Where replacement housing is needed, the Service will determine the proper mix of housing and examine the possibility of larger projects being identified for line-item construction. For example, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Canyon National Park and Grand Teton National Park all have housing needs beyond trailer replacement. These needs are credible and verifiable. The magnitude of need will require long-term planning efforts that are beyond the Housing Replacement Program.

In conformance with applicable benchmarks contained in the *National Performance Review*, the Service is also taking additional steps to ensure the cost-effectiveness of the replacement housing that will be built:

1. The Service will continue utilization of multi-unit dwellings and de-emphasize single-family units.
2. The use of standard designs and specifications will reduce overall design costs and meet modular homebuilders' specifications, thereby allowing that sector of the housing industry to competitively bid on projects.
3. All housing construction projects will be consistent with funding guidelines and funding criteria and will undergo a value analysis, including functional analysis to help determine the most appropriate number, type and design.
4. Any exceptions to the above will be reviewed by the Servicewide Development Advisory Board initiated by the Director in response to recent media coverage and Congressional concerns about construction costs. The Director will approve all projects.
5. All housing projects will be subject to the Cost Model as recommended by the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA). Any project exceeding the cost predicted by the cost model will be reviewed and approved by the Director prior to construction or revised as necessary to meet the cost predicted by the cost model.
6. The Service will seek prior approval from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees before building any new housing capacity in national park units (none is currently proposed), including housing that may be provided as a result of public/private partnerships.

While this effort is a major step in improving NPS housing, work will need to continue in FY 2004 and beyond to complete the primary focus of this activity – to rehabilitate existing units and replace substandard trailers. The Service is committed to improving employee housing and making living conditions better for employees and their families, where it is necessary for the Government to provide housing.

In FY 2004, major rehabilitation work will be performed on approximately 50 existing units to bring these units in twenty park areas up to a good maintainable condition. This includes rehabilitation of several historic housing units. Also, in line with efforts to replace unsafe and inadequate residential trailers and other obsolete housing throughout the System, the NPS proposes in FY 2004 to replace approximately 15 trailers in nine National Park System areas. These trailers will either be replaced with a combination of permanent apartments, dormitories, and multiplex units, or alternate means of housing will be secured such as off-site leasing. This effort will ensure acceptable living conditions for over 50 employees and their families. Formalized condition assessments of approximately 2000 housing units will also be conducted by the parks and by contract.

All dollar amounts in thousands

Activity: Special Programs
Program Component: Dam Safety Program

FY 2004 Base Program Overview

Dam Safety Program: $2.7 million
The National Park Service (NPS) Safety of Dams Program is mandated by Public Law 104-303, Section 215, National Dam Safety Program Act of 1996; U.S. Department of the Interior Departmental Manual, Part 753, Dam Safety Program; and the NPS Management Policies. The program is coordinated through the assistance of the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). The primary reason for creating this program was to prevent another incident like the Rocky Mountain NP Lawn Lake Dam Failure of 1982 when three park visitors were killed and $30 million in damages occurred. Because of BOR's expertise and oversight of the Department of the Interior Maintenance, Operation, and Safety Dams Program, the NPS has regularly used their services and advice in managing NPS dams and monitoring non-NPS structures affecting the National Park System. The program is necessary because of increased activity and development around and downstream of these dams.

The basic goal of the NPS' Safety of Dams Program is either to maintain dams adequately or to deactivate the dams. On the average, corrective action is initiated or completed for structures of all classifications at about four structures per year, mostly through minimal funding appropriated annually in the Operation of the National Park System account. For dam safety repairs/modifications, two to three dams classified as downstream high or significant hazard potential are completed annually. To date, it is estimated that 197 dams have had corrective action completed, and 167 structures deactivated. For FY 2002, there were 5 corrective actions completed and one deactivation. It is estimated that 19 modification projects will be completed and 8 deactivated in FY 2003. Available assessment information on dams indicates that of the 505 plus operational dams in the National Park System, 105 are in good condition, 191 are in fair condition, 146 are in poor condition, and 63 do not yet have a condition assessment. Formal dam safety inspections, a type of condition assessment, are performed every three years by the BOR for the larger, more critical dams. Parks, however, are responsible for ensuring that the Annual Informal Inspections Reports are completed for all dams and recommended maintenance is carried out.

Dams Slated for Corrective Action, FY 2004

Park	State	Dam	Amount ($million)
Lassen Volcanic National Park	California	Manzanita Lake Dam	0.45
Blue Ridge Parkway, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park	North Carolina-Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland	Completion of construction documentation at ten dams and installation of public safety features at two dams	0.70
Yosemite National Park	California	Cascade Dam	0.40
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area	Pennsylvania	PEEC Dam	0.50
Blue Ridge Parkway	Virginia	Otter Lake Dam	0.65

Activity: **Special Programs**
Program Component: **Equipment Replacement Program**

FY 2004 Base Program Overview

This program is comprised of three major components as described below.

Replacement of Park Operations Equipment: $14.333 million
The National Park System has grown by more than 40 new units since 1990. These new areas must be equipped adequately to carry out basic park operations including maintenance, resource protection, and law enforcement functions. Older areas with aging inventories must have sufficient funding to replace equipment to ensure safe and efficient park operations. Daily park operations are dependent on various types of vehicles, vessels and other support equipment. The park service fleet ranges from sedans and pick-ups to marine vessels, emergency response vehicles and heavy construction equipment. Replacement of high mileage vehicles and obsolete heavy construction equipment will improve the overall efficiency and safety of the National Park Service fleet and the stewardship of its facilities. Replacement of emergency vehicles and equipment will protect the government's infrastructure investment and improve visitor protection and safety. The Service's total vehicular, heavy mobile, and other operations equipment replacement backlog as documented in the Project Management Information System is currently estimated at almost $120 million. Like all government agencies, NPS is working to control this backlog by reducing the size of its vehicle fleet.

The Service's FY 2004 program also continues the program of improving structural fire suppression response capabilities through a four-year, $7.8 million program for the acquisition of modern fire apparatus and related equipment. During the previous two years 12 engines were procured and sent to 8 parks. We anticipate that we will be able to obtain 6 additional replacement engines during FY 2004. When this program is completed we plan on having equipment meeting current standards at all Parks justifying them.

Conversion to Narrowband Radio Systems: $23.646 million
In conformity with provisions contained in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce, has directed conversion of all civilian Federal radio users to a new technology known as "narrowband" by January 1, 2005. The transition to narrowband equipment is intended to double the number of channels available to Federal users. Accordingly, those that are currently being denied access to wireless communications support (due to frequency congestion) will be accommodated when the transition is accomplished. Those networks that are not transitioned by January 1, 2005 will be placed in "secondary" status and, should they create interference to other duly authorized narrowband users, will have their frequency assignments revoked and will be required to shut down.

To meet new national interoperability, privacy and security requirements for public safety communications, encrypted digital radio technology is required for all public safety communications. The combination of requirements for Federal public safety organizations to utilize narrowband and digital technology requires complete replacement of all wireless equipment components; modification of existing components to meet the new requirements is not possible. Application of the technology requires new or updated needs assessments, sensitivity to issues surrounding the implementation and a complete re-engineering of existing networks that cover a large geographic area.

All new radio equipment must be compatible with the technology mandated by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for all Federal users and security directives. The new system will provide for:

- improving the communications quality of public safety and law enforcement communications,
- interoperability with other Federal agencies,
- replacement of antiquated, failing communications equipment,

- meeting Federal telecommunications security standards,
- providing better public safety services to park visitors,
- opportunity for sharing frequency, fiscal and physical assets of other Department of the Interior bureaus, and
- improved quality of public safety communications.
- increased security for protecting the national treasures against adverse activities

The National Park Service is completing development of a Servicewide Capital Asset Plan for making a large-scale investment in new narrowband radio equipment in a cost-effective manner. The plan will maximize the use of other Departmental and commercially available communications resources, avoid redundancy, ensure interoperability with other public safety systems, and place highest priority on transition funding for the public safety communication networks of the U.S. Park Police and other NPS field areas where frequencies are most congested, or where communications resources are most inadequate, placing public and employee safety at greatest risk.

There are over 5000 radio frequency assignments on over 300 radio systems in the National Park Service, most of them critical to public safety in park jurisdictions, for park resource management, including fire suppression and search and rescue missions, in addition to park administration. A Servicewide inventory of all radio equipment as to type, remoteness of facilities and operational needs, and an assessment of park staffing that requires the radios was first conducted in 1998 and again in 2002 to determine field requirements and to forecast replacement costs.

Most of the existing National Park Service radio communications systems are out of compliance with applicable technological standards in the regulations of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and are unable to meet current network channel access demand and related communications service-area requirements. This requires a complete reassessment process and reconfiguration of all technological and supporting physical assets. This reassessment process will employ an open architecture that will permit technology upgrades and expansion of the systems to meet changed operational requirements. An ongoing assessment of field conditions and implementation of the new technology in the Washington, D.C., area has revealed shortfalls in the existing system in areas patrolled by the United States Park Police in Washington, D.C., New York City and San Francisco. The Washington, D.C. system must have the capability to provide access to other National Park Service activities in the Washington Metropolitan Operational Area. Engineering services to assess the requirements, develop a technology solution, acquire the equipment, place it in service and conduct acceptance tests will be a two-year implementation process for large networks such as these.

In FY 2000, FY 2001, and FY 2002, $1.646 million was included each year for radio equipment purchase and installation in parks. Park requests for radio replacement were prioritized by critical need and radio frequency congestion issues, as directed by the Department. An estimated $15 million of FY 2003 NPS Equipment Replacement funds are being used to convert the Washington Metropolitan Operational Area to narrowband technology. Also during FY 2003, a Servicewide data call was made to ascertain regional and national priorities for the equipment transition. The requested $23.646 for FY 2004 will match funds from FY 2003 fee receipts and appropriate operational funding sources to convert these priority-identified NPS communications to narrowband technology by January 1, 2005.

Modernization of Information Resources Equipment: $.481 million
For FY 2004, the Service will continue to improve its management of information and related business practices. Funds will be used to continue strengthening the Service's IT infrastructure and IT security, including protection of the NPS public-accessible web servers. The funds will also be used to continue equipment replacement at the park and region level as they comply with the standard PC platforms established for the implementation of Active Directory throughout the Service. This replacement approach will aid the overall IT security of the NPS network as older, less secure equipment is replaced with PCs capable of running the newer Microsoft operating system with its integrated security features as required by the Department's IT Architecture. The funds will also enable the Service to implement the Active Directory more efficiently. A reduction of $1.5 million in this program reflects the need to utilize fund resources throughout the Department’s IT program more efficiently.